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Ehrenberg Elementary School

Quartzsite



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Mrs. Jacqueline D. Price, Superintendent  
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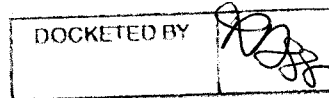
Mr. Gary Pierce, Chairman  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
Commissioner's Wing  
1200 W. Washington—2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission

**DOCKETED**

**JAN 18 2011**

January 10, 2011



AZ CORP COMMISSION  
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Dear Chairman Pierce:

The purpose of this letter is to ask the Commission to approve the "Schools and Government Solar Program" being presented by Arizona Public Service Company. This program affords small, rural school districts like ours and other districts around the state some very innovative options to achieve "energy smart" planning. It would also allow us to access important energy savings with long-term pricing stability that would otherwise be unavailable to us. Now that the Excess Utilities Program is discontinued, we are struggling to find ways to keep our electricity costs down.

We are dealing with declining enrollment and budget decreases like many other school districts in Arizona. The APS program will provide districts with an opportunity to plan and budget for our M & O costs more accurately. Energy conservation and price stability are key factors for maintaining expenditures within our budget.

The following points are important benefits for districts to collaborate with APS-owned solar systems:

1. The experience and expertise provided by APS in design, engineering, installation and the maintenance and operation (M & O) of the APS-owned solar systems will provide school districts tremendous cost-saving opportunities by using affordable, renewable energy for our schools.
2. The term of this agreement is twenty (20) years. This will provide schools and districts with a predictable cost for budgeting over that time.
3. The expertise necessary to proceed with an APS-owned system is built into the program. As a small, rural school district, I do not employ nor have access to

potential applicants with the necessary experience, training and expertise required to evaluate proposals, oversee and then maintain the installations after purchase. The APS owned solar system would allow our district to focus our limited M & O resources on the classroom where it is essential for student learning.

4. Capital restraints of school districts would not limit the size of the system. APS would ensure that the maximum system allowed would be installed, providing the greatest cost savings to schools.
5. We strongly believe that with the APS ownership plan there would be fewer legal requirements and that they would have the resources to adhere to the legal requirements; thereby providing another avenue of cost savings to districts in the most effective manner.
6. The long-term school/community relationships and credibility APS has already established in our region would reinforce the confidence in the stability and longevity of them as business partners. This will help re-build Arizona's economy and help our state regain its former strength and vitality.

Again, I am asking the Corporation Commission to support the APS School and Government Solar Program as it moves forward through your process. I would be happy to appear for testimony, at your will.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline D. Price, Superintendent

cc: Commissioner Brenda Burns  
Commissioner Bob Stump  
Commissioner Paul Newman  
Commissioner Sandra Kennedy